

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising:
  - a) a chondroprotective agent selected from the group consisting of gelatin, cartilage, aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, methylsulfonylmethane, precursors of methylsulfonylmethane, S-adenosylmethionine, and mixtures thereof;
  - b) a sweetening agent other than glucose, dextrose, sucrose, and fructose; and
  - c) at least about 10% water, by weight of the composition.
2. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the chondroprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, S-adenosylmethionine, and mixtures thereof.
3. A composition according to Claim 2 wherein the sweetening agent is selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, malitol, maltose, lactose, fructooligosaccharides, lo han guo, stevioside, acesulfame, aspartame, sucralose, saccharin, xylose, arabinose, levulose, isomalt, and ribose.
4. A composition according to Claim 3 wherein the chondroprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, and mixtures thereof and wherein:
  - a) the aminosugars are selected from the group consisting of glucosamine and salts thereof; and
  - b) the glycosaminoglycans are selected from the group consisting of chondroitin and salts thereof.
5. A composition according to Claim 4 further comprising at least one sweetener selected from the group consisting of sucrose, fructose, and mixtures thereof.
6. A composition according to Claim 5 further comprising a caloric sweetener selected from the group consisting of glucose, dextrose, sucrose, fructose, and mixtures thereof.

7. A composition according to Claim 4 wherein the sweetening agent is selected from the group consisting of xylitol, erythritol, fructooligosaccharides, lo han guo, stevioside, acesulfame, aspartame, sucralose, and mixtures thereof.
8. A composition according to Claim 7 wherein the sweetening agent is selected from the group consisting of erythritol, sucralose, and mixtures thereof.
9. A composition according to Claim 8 further comprising one or more beverage components selected from the group consisting of fruit juice, tea, milk solids, and mixtures thereof.
10. A composition according to Claim 9 comprising at least about 75% water, by weight of the composition.
11. A composition according to Claim 10 further comprising one or more nutrients.
12. A composition according to Claim 10 further comprising one or more omega-3-fatty acids.
13. A composition comprising:
  - a) a chondroprotective agent selected from the group consisting of gelatin, cartilage, aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, methylsulfonylmethane, precursors of methylsulfonylmethane, S-adenosylmethionine, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof; and
  - b) a sweetening agent other than glucose, dextrose, sucrose, and fructose;
 wherein the composition is substantially free of aspartame.
14. A composition according to Claim 13 wherein the chondroprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, S-adenosylmethionine, and mixtures thereof.
15. A composition according to Claim 14 wherein the sweetening agent is selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, malitol, maltose, lactose, fructooligosaccharides, lo han guo, stevioside, acesulfame, aspartame, sucralose, saccharin, xylose, arabinose, levulose, isomalt, and ribose.

16. A composition according to Claim 15 wherein the chondroprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, and mixtures thereof and wherein:
  - a) the aminosugars are selected from the group consisting of glucosamine and salts thereof; and
  - b) the glycosaminoglycans are selected from the group consisting of chondroitin and salts thereof.
17. A composition according to Claim 16 further comprising at least one sweetener selected from the group consisting of sucrose, fructose, and mixtures thereof.
18. A composition according to Claim 17 further comprising a caloric sweetener selected from the group consisting of glucose, dextrose, sucrose, fructose, and mixtures thereof.
19. A composition according to Claim 16 wherein the sweetening agent is selected from the group consisting of xylitol, erythritol, fructooligosaccharides, lo han guo, stevioside, acesulfame, aspartame, sucralose, and mixtures thereof.
20. A composition according to Claim 19 wherein the sweetening agent is selected from the group consisting of erythritol, sucralose, and mixtures thereof.
21. A composition according to Claim 20 further comprising one or more beverage components selected from the group consisting of fruit juice, tea, milk solids, and mixtures thereof.
22. A composition comprising:
  - a) a chondroprotective agent selected from the group consisting of gelatin, cartilage, aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, methylsulfonylmethane, precursors of methylsulfonylmethane, S-adenosylmethionine, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof;
  - b) at least about 10% water, by weight of the composition; and
  - c) less than about 19 grams total carbohydrate per every 230 milliliters of the composition.

23. A composition according to Claim 22 wherein the chondroprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, S-adenosylmethionine, and mixtures thereof.
24. A composition according to Claim 23 comprising a sweetening agent selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, malitol, maltose, lactose, fructooligosaccharides, lo han guo, stevioside, acesulfame, aspartame, sucralose, saccharin, xylose, arabinose, levulose, isomalt, and ribose.
25. A composition according to Claim 24 wherein the chondroprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, and mixtures thereof and wherein:
- a) the aminosugars are selected from the group consisting of glucosamine and salts thereof; and
  - b) the glycosaminoglycans are selected from the group consisting of chondroitin and salts thereof.
26. A composition according to Claim 25 further comprising at least one sweetener selected from the group consisting of sucrose, fructose, and mixtures thereof.
27. A composition according to Claim 26 further comprising a caloric sweetener selected from the group consisting of glucose, dextrose, sucrose, fructose, and mixtures thereof.
28. A composition according to Claim 27 comprising less than about 18.5 grams total carbohydrate per every 230 milliliters of the composition.
29. A composition according to Claim 28 further comprising one or more beverage components selected from the group consisting of fruit juice, tea, milk solids, and mixtures thereof.
30. A composition according to Claim 28 comprising less than about 18 grams total carbohydrate per every 230 milliliters of the composition.
31. A composition according to Claim 30 comprising at least about 75% water, by weight of the composition.

32. A composition according to Claim 31 further comprising one or more nutrients.
33. A composition according to Claim 31 further comprising one or more omega-3-fatty acids.
34. A composition comprising:
- a) a chondroprotective agent selected from the group consisting of gelatin, cartilage, aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, methylsulfonylmethane, precursors of methylsulfonylmethane, S-adenosylmethionine, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof; and
  - b) less than about 18 grams total carbohydrate per every 230 milliliters of the composition;
- wherein the composition is substantially free of aspartame.
35. A composition according to Claim 34 wherein the chondroprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, S-adenosylmethionine, and mixtures thereof.
36. A composition according to Claim 35 comprising a sweetening agent selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, malitol, maltose, lactose, fructooligosaccharides, lo han guo, stevioside, acesulfame, aspartame, sucralose, saccharin, xylose, arabinose, levulose, isomalt, and ribose.
37. A composition according to Claim 36 wherein the chondroprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of aminosugars, glycosaminoglycans, and mixtures thereof and wherein:
- a) the aminosugars are selected from the group consisting of glucosamine and salts thereof; and
  - b) the glycosaminoglycans are selected from the group consisting of chondroitin and salts thereof.
38. A composition according to Claim 37 further comprising at least one sweetener selected from the group consisting of sucrose, fructose, and mixtures thereof.

39. A composition according to Claim 38 further comprising a caloric sweetener selected from the group consisting of glucose, dextrose, sucrose, fructose, and mixtures thereof.
40. A composition according to Claim 39 comprising less than about 18.5 grams total carbohydrate per every 230 milliliters of the composition.
41. A composition according to Claim 40 further comprising one or more beverage components selected from the group consisting of fruit juice, tea, milk solids, and mixtures thereof.
42. A composition according to Claim 41 comprising less than about 18 grams total carbohydrate per every 230 milliliters of the composition.
43. A kit comprising:
- (a) a composition according to Claim 1; and
  - (b) information that use of the composition is useful for one or more benefits selected from the group consisting of joint health benefits, bone health benefits, anti-inflammation, and utility for diabetic mammals.
44. A kit comprising:
- (a) a composition according to Claim 13; and
  - (b) information that use of the composition is useful for one or more benefits selected from the group consisting of joint health benefits, bone health benefits, anti-inflammation, and utility for diabetic mammals.
45. A kit comprising:
- (a) a composition according to Claim 22; and
  - (b) information that use of the composition is useful for one or more benefits selected from the group consisting of joint health benefits, bone health benefits, anti-inflammation, and utility for diabetic mammals.

46. A kit comprising:
- (a) a composition according to Claim 34; and
  - (b) information that use of the composition is useful for one or more benefits selected from the group consisting of joint health benefits, bone health benefits, anti-inflammation, and utility for diabetic mammals.
47. A method of treating a condition selected from the group consisting of joint dysfunction, bone dysfunction, and inflammation comprising orally administering to a mammal a composition according to Claim 1.
48. A method of treating a condition selected from the group consisting of joint dysfunction, bone dysfunction, and inflammation comprising orally administering to a mammal a composition according to Claim 13.
49. A method of treating a condition selected from the group consisting of joint dysfunction, bone dysfunction, and inflammation comprising orally administering to a mammal a composition according to Claim 22.
50. A method of treating a condition selected from the group consisting of joint dysfunction, bone dysfunction, and inflammation comprising orally administering to a mammal a composition according to Claim 34.